



The Town of Barnstable

Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)

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CFAC Committee:

Chairman:

Bill Brower

Members:

Robert Ciolek
Laura Cronin
Stanley Hodkinson
Ralph Krau
Tom Michael

Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne

Councilor Liaison:

Richard Barry
James Munafo Jr.

CFAC MEETING MINUTES

4.05.10

7:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

CFAC Members Present: Bill Brower, Laura Cronin, Ralph Krau, Stanley Hodkinson

CFAC Members Absent: Robert Ciolek, Tom Michael

Councilors Present: None

Staff Present: Mark Milne - Finance Director, Ruth Weil - Town Attorney, Dr. Patricia Grenier - Superintendent, Ann Marie Ellis - Assistant Finance Director, Deb Childs - Finance/Budget Analyst

1. Call to Order

Upon a quorum duly present, Bill Brower called the CFAC meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the Growth Management Conference Room.

2. Act on Minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes of 03.15.10.

Vote: Unanimous

3. Chairman, Staff & Councilor Comments

Bill Brower informed the staff that the Appointments Committee

notified him of 2 re-appointments that are coming up, himself and Tom Michaels. Bill will keep the committee notified of any action.

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

Ethics Test -

Laura Cronin brought to the committees attention the need to complete the State Ethics on line test. All members are required to read and review the material. Deb Childs will forward the necessary information and website link to all members.

Superintendent Dr. Patricia Grenier - FY11 School Budget-

Dr. Grenier introduced Ann Marie Ellis, the Assistant Finance Director for the Town, to the committee. Ann Marie works closely with the Superintendent with regards to the school budget. Dr. Grenier provided the committee with three handouts for review; one a copy of her PowerPoint presentation to the School Committee, one the FY11 Proposed School Budget but site, and one a report of the FY10 expenditures to date.

Dr. Grenier reviewed the Core Values of the School and discussed the current enrollment status. She also went over the Circuit Breaker funding methodology. Overall, she feels one are in need is support staff.

Dr. Grenier stressed that has concerns regarding the FY2012 budget and believes to maintain a level service budget would require use of savings.

Laura C. had questions regarding how the monies from the sale of the Grade 5 building can and are being utilized.

Dr. Grenier and Mark Milne explained the money can be utilized for anything you are legally authorized to borrow on to improve the school.

Laura questioned if those funds could be used for some of the CIP requests and then request technology funds through a CIP request.

Dr. Grenier agreed that may be an avenue to pursue. She noted that the Technology director feels the recent developments such as the IPAD may really change the direction of teaching. She also reviewed how some classes are experimenting with "SKYPEING" where a student out sick could still participate in the classroom and observe the days lecture.

Stan H. asked where we stood in comparison to other districts?

Dr. Grenier responded we were level with other districts. She also made note that some of the funds from the sale of the Grade 5 building were used for extraordinary technology requirements as a result of the various moves this year.

Ralph K. inquired what the estimate is to upgrade systems to where they need to be?

Dr. Grenier would need to get that information.

Ralph K. and Laura C. recommended leasing options for equipment be pursued.

Ralph K. requested the scope of upgrades required and information on leasing considerations.

Ann Marie Ellis reviewed that the current year expenditures does not present any current concerns and indicated the budget was tracking where expected.

Dr. Grenier expressed concern about FY2012. The ARRA money goes away and she has concerns with potential State Aid availability.

Laura C. inquired about decrease enrollment, is it anticipated?

Dr. Grenier responded yes an approximate 3 % decrease is expected.

Laura C. inquired at what point does the decrease equate to savings?

Dr. Grenier reviewed that you would need a 5-8 year pattern of decline to result in savings. She reviewed the school structures and how the change in numbers may not necessarily result in a reduction in the number of classes.

Ralph K. expressed concern that Barnstable be monitoring any “bullying”.

Dr. Grenier shares that concern and acknowledge that it does occur on some level at all schools in every state.

Town Attorney Ruth Weil - Private Parking Lot Fee Proposal

Mark Milne invited Ruth Weil to speak in reference to the feasibility and any legal parameters in regard to Laura Cronin’s parking lot fee proposal.

Ruth W. cited the Emerson College Case as the basis for why the proposal could not be implemented as a fee. She also cited some newer cases such as Silvia vs. City of Attleboro. A fee needs to be based on the Cost of Service, which Tom Geiler has completed.

Laura C. questioned if we could use the cost of repairing roads as part of the cost of service.

Ruth W. responded that makes sense but it would need to be quantified and correlated. She noted the Town cannot be in a revenue sharing position.

Ruth W. noted a case from Foxboro where the town was able to obtain special legislation to allow the town to collect an excise tax for parking lots near the stadium.

Laura questioned reviewing the possibility for zoning law changes ? She did not think enforcement is very active.

Mark M. commented they could pursue revisiting the cost of service with Tom Geiler but really need to consider how to quantify road repair.

Laura discussed that she feels the waterfront area is not being used to its potential.

Ruth W. commented that the Growth Management Department is reviewing the waterfront area.

Ralph K. wondered if eminent domain could be used to revitalize the area.

Ruth W. indicated it could be an option but cautioned that following the Supreme Court's decision in Kelo there has been a backlash against using eminent domain for economic redevelopment.

Laura inquired how zoning changes would be pursued?

Ruth commented it would go through Town Council but cautioned that grandfathering protection may prevent any immediate significant changes.

Ralph K. questioned how we could assess what the delegation thinks and could we invite them into the thought process?

Bill B. agreed to put something together to outline how they could review and pursue legislation.

FY10 Municipal Operating Budget Update -

Mark provided a revised calendar to the committee. He outlined the significant dates for the committee. The CIP plan will be presented to the Town Council at the April 15th meeting. CFAC is invited to attend and be available for any questions.

FY11 Budget Calendar revisions-

The date for the Operating budget to be presented has been moved back to May 6th.

Mark projects the workshops will be around 5/20 and 5/27. The CFAC report will be due June 3rd. Friday 5/28 is the last day to adopt the CIP budget. June 18th is the last business day to adopt the Operating budget.

Recommended FY11 CIP's

Mark distributed the CIP plans being recommended and reviewed the projects.

Mark noted that the Council did approve and accept the Airports terminal and tower project.

CFAC Meeting - Date change from April 19th to April 20th -

The committee voted unanimously to reschedule the next meeting to be on Tuesday April 20th due to Monday the 19th being a holiday.

6. Discussions

There is an applicant for the committee - John Curran from Centerville. His information has been forwarded to the Town Council for consideration.

Mark M. reviewed that the Town Council held a workshop to review the options for financing the sewerage initiatives. The Council has created a sub-committee to review the recommendations. Mark provided a copy of the summary information. He noted that the issue of taking on private roads has been added into the mix.

Laura C. thinks putting the two issues together muddies up the topic. She feels the sewerage will benefit the Town overall whereas the private road may only be a benefit to the direct homeowners.

Mark M. mentioned the proposal to combining the issues may create better reception to the sewer project as homeowners will see a direct benefit. He did say the data can be split to show the impact of both projects or each individually. Mark also noted many examples of private roads that are really utilized as public roads.

Ralph K. inquired about who is on the sub-committee and who is the chair?

Mark M. was not sure and would need to find that out.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20th at 7 p.m.